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### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 46. (Cancelled)

47. (New) An imageable composition comprising:

an acid curable composition;  
an acid generator; and  
a colorant, wherein the colorant includes a counter anion derived from a non-volatile acid.

48. (New) The composition of claim 47, wherein the acid curable composition comprises:

a crosslinkable binder; and  
a crosslinking agent.

49. (New) The composition of claim 48, wherein the binder comprises a polymer having at least two reactive groups each independently selected from the group consisting of: hydroxy, carboxylic acid, amine, carbamate, amide, sulfonamide and imide.

50. (New) The composition of claim 48, wherein the binder comprises a polymer having at least two reactive hydroxy groups.

51. (New) The composition of claim 48, wherein the binder comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of: a polyol, a polyether polyol, a novolak resin, a resole resin, a hydroxyfunctional acrylic resin, a hydroxyfunctional polyester resin, and combinations thereof.

52. (New) The composition of claim 48, wherein the binder comprises a novolak resin.

53. (New) The composition of claim 48, comprising a crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of: a resole resin, an amino resin, an amido resin, an epoxy compound having at least two epoxide groups, and combinations thereof.

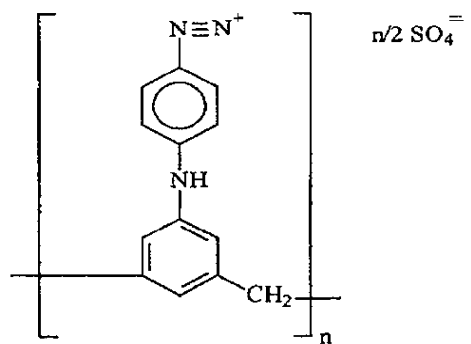
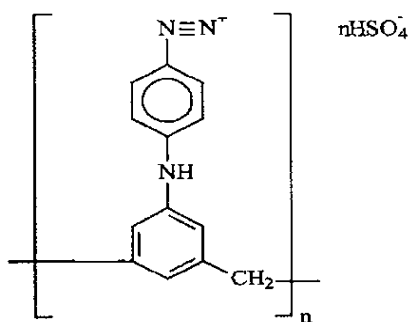
54. (New) The composition of claim 48, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises a resole resin.

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55. (New) The composition of claim 48, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises an amino resin having at least two alkoxymethyl groups.
56. (New) The composition of claim 48, comprising an isocyanate crosslinker having at least two isocyanate groups.
57. (New) The composition of claim 47, wherein the acid generator is an ultraviolet, visible or infrared radiation or heat activated compound.
58. (New) The composition of claim 47, comprising an acid generator selected from the group consisting of: an onium salt, a covalently bound sulfonate group-containing compound, hydrocarbylsulfonamido-N-hydrocarbyl sulfonate, and combinations thereof.
59. (New) The composition of claim 47, wherein the acid generator comprises an onium salt.
60. (New) The composition of claim 59, wherein the onium salt has a non-nucleophilic counter anion selected from the group consisting of: tetrafluoroborate, hexafluorophosphate, hexafluoroarsenate, hexafluoroantimonate, triflate, tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)borate, pentafluoroethyl sulfonate, p-methylbenzene sulfonate, ethyl sulfonate, trifluoromethyl acetate and pentafluoroethyl acetate.
61. (New) The composition of claim 59, wherein the onium salt is selected from the group consisting of: an iodonium salt, a sulfonium salt, a hydrocarbyloxysulfonium salt, a hydrocarbyloxyammonium salt, an aryl diazonium salt, and combinations thereof.
62. (New) The composition of claim 59, wherein the onium salt is a salt of an N-hydrocarbyloxy-substituted nitrogen-containing heterocyclic compound.
63. (New) The composition of claim 47, wherein the acid generator includes a monomeric or oligomeric aromatic diazonium salt.

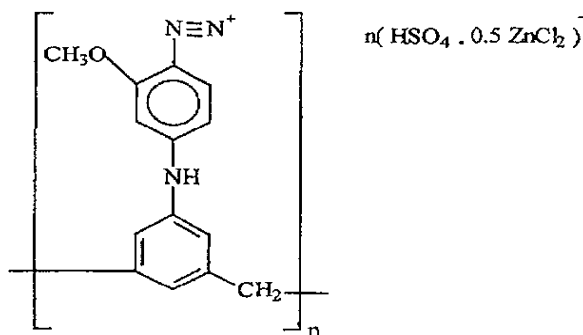
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64. (New) The composition of claim 63, wherein the diazonium salt is selected from the group consisting of 2-methoxy-4-phenylaminobenzene diazonium hexafluorophosphate, 2-methoxy-4-phenylaminobenzenediazonium p-toluenesulfonate, and combinations thereof.
65. (New) The composition of claim 63, wherein the diazonium salt is an oligomeric diazonium salt represented by one of the structures:



and

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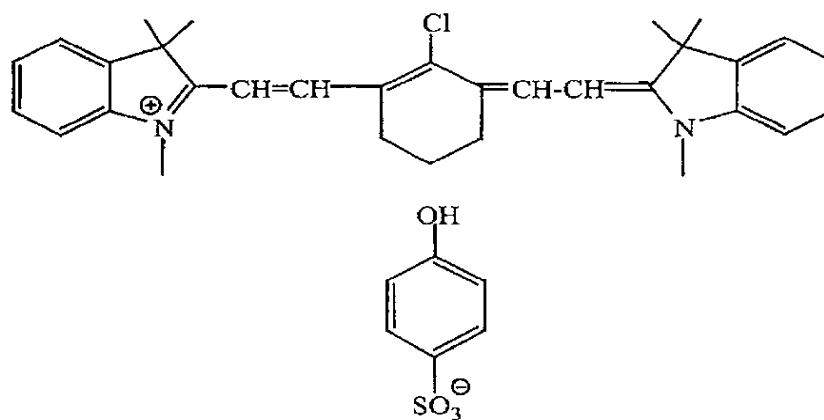


wherein n is from 1 to 11, and combinations thereof.

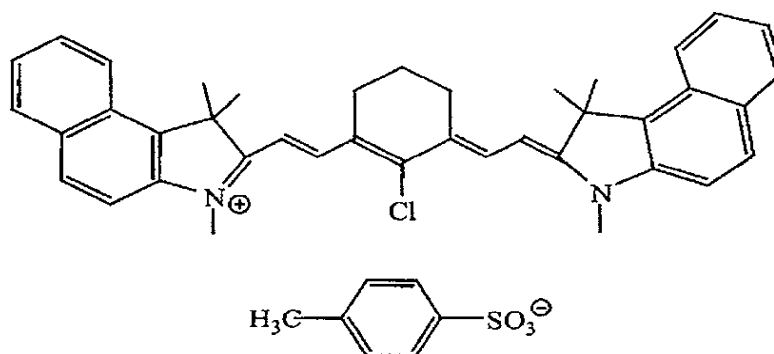
66. (New) The composition of claim 47, further comprising a photothermal converter material.
67. (New) The composition of claim 47, further comprising an infrared absorber.
68. (New) The composition of claim 67, wherein the infrared absorber is selected from the group consisting of: a pigment, a dye, and combinations thereof.
69. (New) The composition of claim 67, wherein the infrared absorber includes a dye selected from the group consisting of: cyanine dyes, squarylium dyes, pyrylium salts and nickel thiolate complexes.
70. (New) The composition of claim 67, wherein the infrared absorber includes an infrared-absorbing dye including a counter anion derived from a non-volatile acid.
71. (New) The composition of claim 70, wherein the infrared-absorbing dye includes a counter anion derived from a non-volatile sulfonic acid.

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72. (New) The composition of claim 70, wherein the infrared-absorbing dye is represented by the structure:



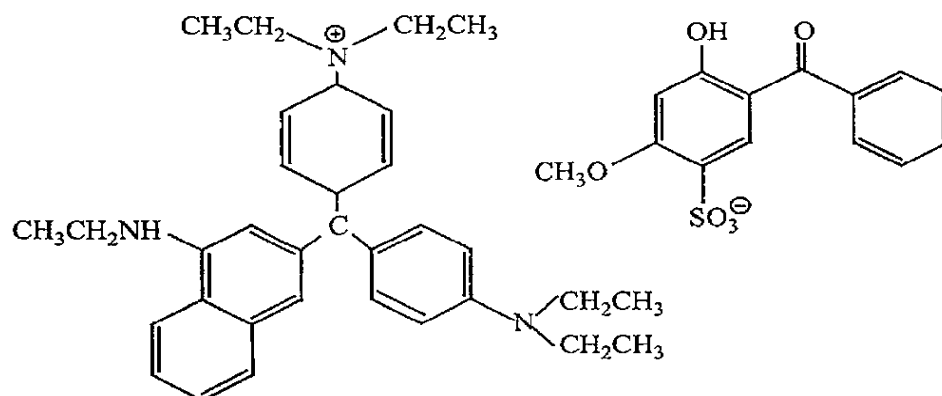
73. (New) The composition of claim 70, wherein the infrared-absorbing dye is represented by the structure:



74. (New) The composition of claim 47, wherein the colorant includes a counter anion derived from a non-volatile sulfonic acid.

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75. (New) The composition of claim 47, wherein the colorant includes a compound represented by the structure:



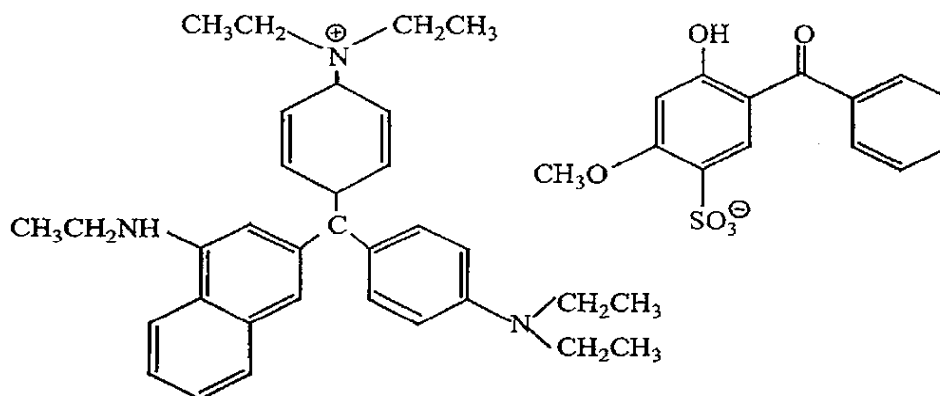
76. (New) An imageable element comprising:  
a substrate; and  
an imageable coating on a surface of the substrate, the coating comprising: an acid curable composition; an acid generator; and a colorant, wherein the colorant includes a counter anion derived from a non-volatile acid.
77. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, wherein the substrate is an aluminum sheet.
78. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, wherein the acid curable composition comprises:  
a crosslinkable binder; and  
a crosslinking agent.
79. (New) The imageable element of claim 78, wherein the binder comprises a polymer having at least two reactive hydroxy groups.
80. (New) The imageable element of claim 78, wherein the binder comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of: a polyol, a polyether polyol, a novolak resin, a resole resin, a hydroxyfunctional acrylic resin, a hydroxyfunctional polyester resin, and combinations thereof.

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81. (New) The imageable element of claim 78, wherein the binder comprises a novolak resin.
82. (New) The imageable element of claim 78, comprising a crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of: a resole resin, an amino resin, an amido resin, an epoxy compound having at least two epoxide groups, and combinations thereof.
83. (New) The imageable element of claim 78, wherein the crosslinking agent comprises a resole resin.
84. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, wherein the acid generator is an ultraviolet, visible or infrared radiation or heat activated compound.
85. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, wherein the acid generator comprises an onium salt.
86. (New) The imageable element of claim 85, wherein the onium salt is selected from the group consisting of: an iodonium salt, a sulfonium salt, a hydrocarbyloxysulfonium salt, a hydrocarbyloxyammonium salt, an aryl diazonium salt, and combinations thereof.
87. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, wherein the acid generator includes a monomeric or oligomeric aromatic diazonium salt.
88. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, further comprising a photothermal converter material.
89. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, further comprising an infrared absorber.
90. (New) The imageable element of claim 89, wherein the infrared absorber is selected from the group consisting of: a pigment, a dye, and combinations thereof.
91. (New) The imageable element of claim 89, wherein the infrared absorber includes a dye selected from the group consisting of: cyanine dyes, squarylium dyes, pyrylium salts and nickel thiolate complexes.

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92. (New) The imageable element of claim 89, wherein the infrared absorber includes an infrared-absorbing dye including a counter anion derived from a non-volatile acid.
93. (New) The imageable element of claim 92, wherein the infrared-absorbing dye includes a counter anion derived from a non-volatile sulfonic acid.
94. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, wherein the colorant includes a counter anion derived from a non-volatile sulfonic acid.
95. (New) The imageable element of claim 76, wherein the colorant includes a compound represented by the structure:



96. (New) A method of making an imageable element including a substrate and an imageable coating on the substrate, the method comprising the steps of:
- contacting a substrate with an imageable composition dissolved or dispersed in a suitable solvent, wherein the imageable composition comprises an acid curable composition, an acid generator, and a colorant, wherein the colorant includes a counter anion derived from a non-volatile acid; and
  - drying to remove solvent, leaving an imageable coating on the substrate.
97. (New) A method of producing an imaged element comprising the steps of:
- providing a thermally imageable element comprising a substrate and a thermally



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imageable coating on a surface of the substrate, the coating comprising an acid curable composition, an acid generator, and a colorant, wherein the colorant includes a counter anion derived from a non-volatile acid;

imagewise exposing the imageable element to heat to produce an exposed element having exposed and unexposed regions of the coating;

baking the exposed element at a temperature and period of time sufficient to produce a cured element; and

contacting the cured element with a developer to remove the unexposed regions of the coating and thereby produce the imaged element.

98. (New) The method of claim 96, wherein the step of imagewise exposing is carried out using an infrared laser.